UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/217
S/25986
22 June 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Items 42 and 115 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 21 June 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose the text of a press statement made by Mr. Hikmet Çetin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, on 18 June 1993, regarding a decision on Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights at its 5th plenary meeting, held at Vienna on 15 June 1993 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under items 42 and 115 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) İnal BATU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/48/50.

ANNEX

Statement made to the press on 18 June 1993 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey

The World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna, appealed to the Security Council on 15 June 1993 to take the necessary measures to end the genocide taking place in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

That appeal, which is the first of its kind since the Second World War and the first such document adopted by consensus by the international community recognizing the commission of genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, is of great importance.

In this connection, the international community would be supporting genocide if it continued unjustly to deny Bosnia and Herzegovina the right to arm itself for the purpose of self-defence.

The continued inaction of the international community against genocide would no doubt deal a heavy blow to international law and legitimacy. The Security Council is obliged to take the necessary action in line with the latest appeal made by the World Conference on Human Rights. Otherwise, neither the World Conference on Human Rights, nor the United Nations and its Member States would be able to maintain credibility and moral authority, and the international community will have to shoulder the blame before history.

Now that the World Conference on Human Rights has determined the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina to be genocide, it is time that the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide be implemented.

---